

a.) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

<sup>1</sup> ~~1~~. (Previously Amended) An isolated DNA, comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

<sup>2</sup> ~~5~~. (Currently Amended) A recombinant DNA which comprises a vector and the DNA according to ~~claims 3 or 4~~ <sup>1</sup> claim 2.

<sup>3</sup> ~~6~~. (Original) A transformant obtained by introducing the recombinant DNA according to claim <sup>2</sup> ~~5~~ into a host cell.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled)

<sup>4</sup> ~~10~~. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of the nucleotide sequence of ~~DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;~~

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a the nucleotide sequence complementary to ~~DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA~~ comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and ~~DNA which~~ hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by ~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~ under stringent conditions;

using said oligonucleotides in a reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1; and

determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of said reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction.

<sup>5</sup> 11. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a the nucleotide sequence complementary to ~~DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA~~ comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and ~~DNA which~~ hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by ~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~ under stringent conditions;

using said oligonucleotide in a Northern blot to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1; and

determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of  
said Northern blot.

Claims 12-29 (Cancelled)